



# INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Indiana State Board of Education  
**From:** Ron Sandlin, Director of Policy and Legislation  
**Date:** February 1, 2017  
**RE:** Determination of State Intervention for Kindezi Academy at Joyce Kilmer School 69 (IPS)

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Pursuant to IC 20-31-9-4, the Indiana State Board of Education shall consider options for school improvement for any school placed in the lowest category or designation of school improvement, an 'F' rating, for six consecutive years.

### History of State Intervention for Kindezi Academy at Joyce Kilmer School 69

At the State Board of Education public hearing on July 22, 2016, district and school officials from Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) presented a plan to improve student performance at Joyce Kilmer School 69 through the creation of a participating innovation network charter school.

Joyce Kilmer School 69 received a sixth consecutive 'F' performance rating following the 15/16 school year. As a result, the State Board of Education is required to consider implementing an option for school improvement under IC 20-31-9-4.

### Participating Innovation Network Charter School – Kindezi Academy at Joyce Kilmer School 69

School autonomy is a cornerstone of the IPS Strategic Plan 2015. This focus on autonomy will create a system where schools can make site-based decisions around how to allocate resources to address the specific and unique needs their students and families to increase student achievement.

Pursuant to this vision, IPS officials have partnered with Enlace Inc. to operate Joyce Kilmer School 69 as a participating innovation network charter school. This designation provides increased school autonomy, operational flexibility, and opportunities for structural and instructional innovation.

Enlace Inc. currently operates one other charter school in the city of Indianapolis. Enlace Academy opened in the 13/14 school year and is located on the west side of Indianapolis. The school enrolls students in grades K-6, the same configuration as Joyce Kilmer School 69. It also serves a large population of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch, similar to the student population at

Joyce Kilmer School 69. Following the 15/16 school year, Enlace Academy received an ‘A’ performance rating, the first year the school was eligible to receive a letter grade under state law.

Recommended Intervention at Kindezi Academy at Joyce Kilmer School 69

As a result of Enlace Inc.’s demonstrated capacity to support student achievement in elementary grades within a school environment comparable to Joyce Kilmer School 69, it is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the school corporation’s plan to improve the school through the creation of participating innovation network charter school in partnership with Enlace Inc. This option recognizes and validates the vision and will of the governing board as outlined in the district’s strategic plan, along with the tireless efforts of school and district officials in both organizations to design a school improvement model to meet the unique needs of the students at Joyce Kilmer School 69. The State Board of Education and the Indiana Department of Education will work closely with school and district leaders to establish an agreed upon set of performance metrics to inform the monitoring of this intervention. If the school fails to reach these interim benchmarks for improvement, the State Board of Education holds the right to alter the intervention and select a different option for school improvement under Indiana state law.